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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Chnoupek Bullish on Relations with the US

Foreign Minister Chnoupek called in US DCM Wortzel on June 10 and commented on the "improved climate" in bilateral relations.

Chnoupek took special note of steps President Nixon has taken in what Chnoupek called "an irreversible shift from the Cold War to accommodation and detente." The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction at the resumption of claims negotiations and said that Prague is ready to take concrete steps to expand relations; including an increase in purchases from the US, conclusion of the pending cultural and scientific exchanges agreement, and action on the divided families issue.

Chnoupek said also he would go to the leadership for final authority to wind up the claims negotiations quickly. He said that their importance should be reflected in the signature arrangements. He did not expect President Nixon to sign, but he suggested signature by Secretary Kissinger-- and angled for an invitation to Washington for the signing ceremonies.



State Dept. review completed

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